Colin thou kenst] knowest. Seemeth hereby that Colin perteyneth to some Southern noble man, and perhaps in Surrye or Kent, the rather bicause he so often nameth the Kentish dovvnes, and before, As lythe as lasse of Kent.

The VVidovves] He calleth Rosalind the VVidowes daughter of the glenne, that is, of a country Hamlet or borough, which I thinke is rather sayde to coloure and concele the person, then simply spoken. For it is vvell knowen, euen in spighte of Colin and Hobbinoll, that shee is a Gentle vvoman of no meane house, nor endewed vvith anye vulgare and common gifts both of nature and manners: but suche indeede, as neede nether Colin be ashamed to haue her made knowne by his verses, nor Hobbinol be greued, that so she should be commended to immortalitie for her rare and singular Vertues: Specially deseruing it no lesse, then eyther Myrto the most excellēt Poete Theocritus his dearling, or Laureta the diuine Petrarches Goddesse, or Himera the vvorthye Poete Stesichorus hys Idole: Vpon vvhom he is sayd so much to haue doted, that in regard of her excellencie, he scorned & wrote against the beauty of Helena. For which his præsumptuous and vnheedie hardinesse, he is sayde by vengeaunce of the Gods, thereat being offended, to haue lost both his eyes.

Frenne] a straunger. The word I thinke vvas first poetically put, and after vvarde vsed in commen custome of speach for forenne.

Dight] adorned. Laye] a songe. as Roundelayes and Virelayes

In all this songe is not to be respected, vvhat the worthinesse of her Maiestie deserueth, nor vvhat to the highnes of a Prince is agreeable, but vvhat is moste comely for the meanesse of a shepheards vvitte, or to conceiue, or to vtter. And therefore he calleth her Elysa, as through rudenesse tripping in her name: & a shepheards daughter, it being very vnfit, that a shepheards boy brought vp in the shepefold, should know, or euer seme to haue heard of a Queenes roialty.

Ye daintie] is, as it vvere an Exordium ad preparandos animos.

Virgins] the nine Muses, daughters of Apollo & Memorie, vvhose abode the Poets faine to be on Parnassus, a hill in Grece, for that in that countrye specially florished the honor of all excellent studies.

Helicon] is both the name of a fountaine at the foote of Parnassus, and also of a mounteine in Bæotia, out of which floweth the famous Spring Castalius, dedicate also to the Muses: of vvhich spring it is sayd, that vvhen Pegasus the winged horse of Perseus (whereby is meant fame and flying renowme) strooke the grovvnde with his hoose, sodenly thereout sprange a vvel of moste cleare and pleasaunte water, vvhich fro thēce forth was consecrate to the Muses & Ladies of learning.

Your siluer song] seemeth to imitate the lyke in Hesiodus ῥηγμῖνι μέλος.

Syrinx] is the name of a Nymphe of Arcadie, whom when Pan being in loue pursued, she flying frō him, of the Gods was turned into a reede. So that Pan catching at the Reedes in stede of the Damosell, and puffing hard (for he vvas almost out of wind) with hys breath made the Reedes to pype: vvhich he seeing, tooke of them, and in remembraunce of his lost loue, made him a pype thereof. But here by Pan and Syrinx is not to bee thoughte, that the shephearde simplye meante those Poetical Gods: but rather supposing (as seemeth) her graces progenie to be diuine and immortall (so as the Paynims were wont to iudge of all Kinges and

and Princes, according to Homeres sayi

Θυμὸς δὴ μέγας ἐσὶ διοτρεφέος
πρὶν δ' ἐν δίος ἐσι, φιλεῖ δέ ἑ μ

could deuise no parents in his iudgemen
heards God, and his best beloued Syrinx.
famous and victorious King, her highnes
Henry the eyght. And by that name, ofty
kings and mighty Potentates: And in son
rye Pan and god of Shepheardes.

Cremosin coronet] he deuiseth her crowne to be
instede of perles and precious stones, whe
adorned and embost.

Embellish] beautifye and set out.

Phebe] the Moone, whom the Poets faine to be si

Medled] mingled.

Yfere] together. By the mingling of the Redde ro
ting of the two principall houses of Lanc
discord and deadly debate, this realm ma
cleane decayed. Til the famous Henry the
king to vvife the most vertuous Princesse
vvard of the house of Yorke, begat the m
in vvhom vvas the firste vnion of the VV

Calliope] one of the nine Muses: to vvhome they
uention, & the firste glorye of the Heroi
Goddesse of Rhetorick: but by Virgile
thyng. For there in hys Epigrams, that
mnia, saying: Signat cuncta manu, loqui
which seemeth specially to be meant of
tes of Rhetorick: besyde that her name, v
great remembraunce, conteineth anothe
vvhich call her Polymnia or Polyhymnia

Bay branches] be the signe of honor & victory, &
in theyr triumphes, & eke of famous Poe

Arbor vittoriosa trion
Honor d' Imperadori &

The Graces] be three sisters, the daughters of Iup
Euphrosyne, & Homer onely addeth a fo
tes, that is thanks. vvhō the Poetes feyne
comelines, vvhich therefore (as sayth Th
that men first ought to be gracious & bo
benefits at other mens hands curteously,
ly: vvhich are three sundry Actions in libe
be painted naked, (as they were indeede
one hauing her backe toward vs, and he